

**MONTANA FISH, WILDLIFE & PARKS  
FINAL PROJECT PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**AGREEMENT:** T - 11 - 1  
**GRANT TITLE:** Status and Distribution of Species of Concern  
In Western Montana  
**PERIOD COVERED:** June 11, 2003 through June 30, 2005

**Objective**

To collect survey and inventory information for the Black Swift, Coeur d'Alene Salamander, Flammulated Owl, and Harlequin Duck in order to better assess the status of these little-known species throughout their historic ranges in western Montana.

**Location**

This work will be conducted in a variety of habitats throughout Western Montana.

**Accomplishments**

A total of 22 streams within 8 drainage systems were surveyed for harlequin ducks (pair surveys in May; brood surveys in late July/August). Ducks were observed on 7 streams within 5 of these drainage systems and 20 individuals were captured and banded. Collectively, the harlequin duck survey accounted for 12 pairs, 22 individual males, 22 individual females and 13 broods (56 young). The number of pairs and broods on 5 streams in the Lower Clark Fork drainage were at or below the minimum number recorded during the prior survey period (1992-1999). However, the numbers of pairs and broods on other surveyed streams were at or above the average numbers of birds recorded during the period 1992-1999.

This grant funded Montana's first black swift survey. Thirty-two potential black swift nesting sites (waterfalls) in northwestern Montana were surveyed, including the only two nesting sites known to date. Only two black swift nesting sites were discovered, including one of the two known historic sites. Logistical challenges that were identified included the remoteness of sites, lack of trail access and presence of grizzly bears – all of which had to be overcome in order to closely observe all potential sites during early evening hours (prime survey period). The number of black swifts observed across the state every year indicate that undiscovered nesting sites exist – including in and near Glacier National Park and in the Bitterroot Mountains.

Eight historically occupied sites in northwestern Montana were surveyed for Coeur d'Alene salamanders. Salamanders were present at the 5 historic sites with surface water flow at the time of the survey. This was deemed a good sign that the species probably persists at previously documented locations in Montana.

Surveys for globally rare mollusks were conducted in cedar/hemlock/grand fir forest habitats of northwestern Montana. Five species deemed “of concern” in Montana were documented at 10 locations, one of which was previously unknown: 2 snail species; humped coin (*Polygryrella polygryrella*) and fir pinwheel (*Radiodiscus abietum*), and 3 slug species; magnum mantleslug (or spotted slug) (*Magnipelta mycophaga*), marbled jumping slug (*Hemphillia danielsi*) and smokey tailedropper (*Prophysaon humile*). Documentation of 5 globally rare mollusk species during a fairly brief survey indicates that these species are likely to occur in more locations.

Forest owl surveys conducted from approximately 40 miles of road on Plum Creek Timber Company lands. Owls were detected at 20 of 52 listening stations (38% response rate to playback calls). A total of 27 owls (4 species) were documented. The 27 owls detected included 12 northern saw-whet owls, 10 great-horned owls, 4 long-eared owls and 1 northern pygmy owl.

The above surveys enhanced our knowledge of several rare species “of concern” in northwestern Montana and filled gaps in statewide databases. The surveys funded by this grant also yielded information that will help us target future surveys to the most promising sites.

### **Variances**

No deviations from the original grant.

### **Expenditure Recap:**

Proposed:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	63,430.00		25,372.00		88,802.00
Indirect @ 20.0%	12,686.00				12,686.00
Total	76,116.00	75.0%	25,372.00	25.0%	101,488.00

Actual:

	Federal Share		Match		Total
Direct Costs	64,405.76		25,372.00		89,777.76
Indirect	11,710.24				11,710.24
Total	76,116.00	75.0%	25,372.00	25.0%	101,488.00

### **Project Personnel**

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